

feed composition includes microflora from the order Thraustochytriales that have been cultured in a culture medium containing a non-chloride sodium salt as a primary source of sodium ion, then the aquaculture feed composition will fall within the scope of claims. Therefore, one skilled in the art merely needs to determine whether the microflora is from the order Thraustochytriales and whether the primary source of sodium ion in the culture medium is a non-chloride sodium salt. It is respectfully submitted that the metes and bounds of the claims are readily determinable and sufficient culture conditions are set forth to define the scope of the claims, therefore the claims comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. It is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 38-47 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ulken et al. At the outset, it should be pointed out that the Information Disclosure Statement form PTO-1449 contains a typographical error. In particular the Ulken reference (DR on page 6 of the PTO-1449) lists the date of the symposium as "29 September 1990" when the correct date is "29 September 1980". It is hoped that this typographical error did not cause any inconvenience to the Examiner.

The rejection of Claims 38-47 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully traversed. In particular, the reference does not disclose or suggest culturing the disclosed microflora in a culture medium containing a non-chloride sodium salt as a primary source of sodium ion. The use of a non-chloride sodium salt as a primary source of sodium ion is a limitation in all the pending claims. Therefore, even if Ulken suggests making a microfloral feed composition from microflora of the order Thraustochytriales, there is clearly no suggestion in Ulken to make such a feed composition having the characteristics that would result from the recited process step. In addition, the dependent Claims 39-47 include additional limitations that are not disclosed or suggested by the cited Ulken reference.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are patentable over the Ulken reference. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 38-47 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner pass this application to issue. In the event the Examiner has any questions regarding the patentability of the pending claims, a telephone conference with the undersigned attorney is respectfully requested.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Response. In the event that fees are due, please debit Deposit Account No. 19-1970.

Respectfully submitted,

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

By: 

Gary J. Connell
Registration No. 32,020
1560 Broadway, Suite 1200
Denver, Colorado 80202-5141
(303) 863-9700

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